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Vol. 100 • No. 82

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2020

\$1

## City purchasing Hickory Grove

Sale, demolition will begin redevelopment process

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
STAFF WRITER

**ROCHELLE** — A landmark building in the City of Rochelle's north corridor may not be around much longer, but council and city staffers are working to make the future much brighter.

Rochelle City Council members unanimously approved a proposal Monday evening calling for the acquisition and demolition of the Hickory Grove Banquet & Convention Center, located at 1127 N. 7th St. in Rochelle. The building's prospects became public knowledge over the weekend, when Robin Baldwin Gounaris, owner and operator of Abraham's Bar & Grille inside Hickory Grove, published a lengthy Facebook post about the future

**"Although OCCCA is a quasi-public entity, the organization doesn't have any taxing authority. The Hickory Grove facility... doesn't generate any property tax revenue, and lease payments are inadequate to continue the operation... I think there are a lot of opportunities on that site to do something great."**

**Jeff Fiegenschuh**



of the property.

"For 15 years, I have tried to save [Hickory Grove]," Baldwin Gounaris wrote. "I have come to the decision that I can no longer save it. After many meetings with potential buyers, investors, the

county and the city, there are just too many building issues and zero funds to fix them."

City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh presented City Council members with the proposal, which calls for the City of Rochelle to

purchase Hickory Grove from the Ogle County Civic Center Authority, which currently owns the building, for \$1. The city would then demolish the building and secure a private development partner to construct a new mixed-

use property on the site.

Demolition estimates (\$250,000), engineering estimates (\$50,000) and city carrying costs (\$12,000) will total roughly \$312,000, with all costs reimbursed by TIFs. Fiegenschuh said the overall goals of the project are property redevelopment and long-term sustainability.

"Although OCCCA is a quasi-public entity, the organization doesn't have any taxing authority," Fiegenschuh said. "The Hickory Grove facility... doesn't generate any property tax revenue, and lease payments are inadequate to continue the operation... I think there are a lot of opportunities on that site to do something great."

**See SALE page 4**

## Gearing up for Crawford day

Principals talk improvements

BY ANDREW HEISERMAN  
STAFF WRITER

**ROCHELLE** — Rochelle Elementary District 231 is gearing up for its annual David Crawford Foundation Pancake Day fundraiser.

Details of the event were discussed at the board's monthly meeting Tuesday night. The event will take place on Saturday, March 7 from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Rochelle Middle School.

This year there is also the addition of a craft fair.

"The one item that is a little new this year, Rochelle Middle School will also co-host a craft fair," said district superintendent Jason Harper. "There will be multiple reasons for people to be walking through the building, making crafts, and making a donation."

The next portion of the meeting was dedicated to the principals from each of the schools within the district to give their school's building and school improvement plan updates.

**See SCHOOL page 4**



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Rochelle Township High School speech team took first place at the IHSA Regional Championship on Saturday for the second year in a row.

## First at regionals

Sectionals set for Saturday in Freeport

BY ANDREW HEISERMAN  
STAFF WRITER

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle Township High School speech team competed in the IHSA Regional Championship at DeKalb High School on Saturday, taking first place for the second year in a row. RTHS came out on top with 68 points, while DeKalb finished second with 58 points.

"The team was pleased with the results," said speech coach Laurie Pillen. "It was a good day of competing for our kids and we had great competition, so we were really pleased that it ended up the way it did."

The schools at the event included RTHS, DeKalb, Byron, Geneva, IMSA, Rockford Jefferson, Hononegah, Sandwich, West Aurora and Sycamore. The competition is set up with 14 different events,

and speakers are chosen based on their strengths and weaknesses for each event.

Speakers start in a preliminary round, then a certain amount are chosen to move on to the final rounds and earn points for their teams. Each student can compete in up to two different events, and there are six to seven kids performing per round. Pillen said the best way to understand how a speech competition works is to compare it to a wrestling meet.

"A speech competition is similar to wrestling," Pillen said. "A wrestling meet has different weight classes, and a speech meet has different events. There are 14 different events and there is a competition in each of those events, once again like a wrestling meet."

Every RTHS student that competed on Saturday qualified for the

IHSA Sectional Championship at Freeport High School on Saturday, Feb. 15. Cara Forsberg took first place in Informative Speaking and Radio Speaking, while Ava Coglianese won the Special Occasion Speaking category. Mikayla Preston and Ariel Zuercher placed first in Dramatic Duet Acting.

Five Hubs earned second-place finishes including Baxter Konstans (Humorous Interpretation), Faith Worthington (Impromptu Speaking), Maggie Duval (Oratorical Declamation), Lilly Robertson (Poetry Reading) and Lauren Ponto (Prose Reading).

Third-place finishers include Konstans (Dramatic Interpretation), Megan Thiravong (Extemporaneous Speaking), Duval (Original Comedy) and Morgan Haas (Original Oratory). Landon DeLille and Paul Swartz took fourth in Humorous Duet Acting).

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On their merits

Scouts recently attended the Merit Badge Midway. See page 3

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• BERNARD ROGERS

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Special honor



Since 2006, Gladys Tastad (holding certificate) and her late husband, Larry, have made and given away over 6,000 quilts. Their quilts have comforted seniors in nursing homes, new mothers in birthing centers, cancer patients, church members and veterans. Besides being given to local organizations, the quilts have been distributed all across the world from Haiti and Nicaragua to Israel and Belize. In recognition of this inspiring accomplishment reflecting the impact two people can make in their community and beyond, Tastad has been selected to receive the NSDAR Community Service Award. Pictured left to right are Becky Danner, Rochelle NSDAR chapter treasurer; Nancy Detig, chapter member; Lydia Roberts, chapter vice regent; Holly Campion, member; Tastad; Luan Wine, member; and Judy Schermerhorn, chapter librarian.

## Soil and Water Management Seminar offers Continuing Education

**OREGON** — Soil and water interactions will be the focus of a Soil and Water Management Webinar sponsored by University of Illinois Extension on Feb. 20.

The workshop will be held at multiple Extension units throughout Illinois, including Ogle County, 421 W. Pines Road, Oregon. Presentations will be delivered via PowerPoint and web conferencing from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Those attending will hear about

the latest information on extreme weather and potential soil impacts from Illinois State Climatologist Trent Ford, controlled CRP burns and soil quality from Western Illinois University biologist Dr. Sean Jenkins, and irrigation water use reporting from Illinois State Water Survey hydrologist Steve Wilson.

Other presenters are Dr. Kapil Arora from Iowa State University who will discuss in field drainage management using control struc-

tures, and Extension Commercial Ag Educator Nathan Johanning to talk on field research on cover crops and soil quality. Certified Crop Advisors will receive 4.5 continuing education units in Soil and Water Management by attending this seminar.

Registration is \$45 per person, which includes lunch. Registration should be completed through the unit location where participants plan to attend. Call 815-732-2191.

## Correction

The Ogle County Voter Guide has a Republican Presidential Candidate that was removed by the State Board of Elections listed. Candidate John Schiess was inadvertently listed on the Republican sample ballot for publication. The Ogle County Clerk's Office apologizes for any inconvenience.



## Medication with a Healthy Dose of Comfort

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## RCH prediabetes program starts March 4

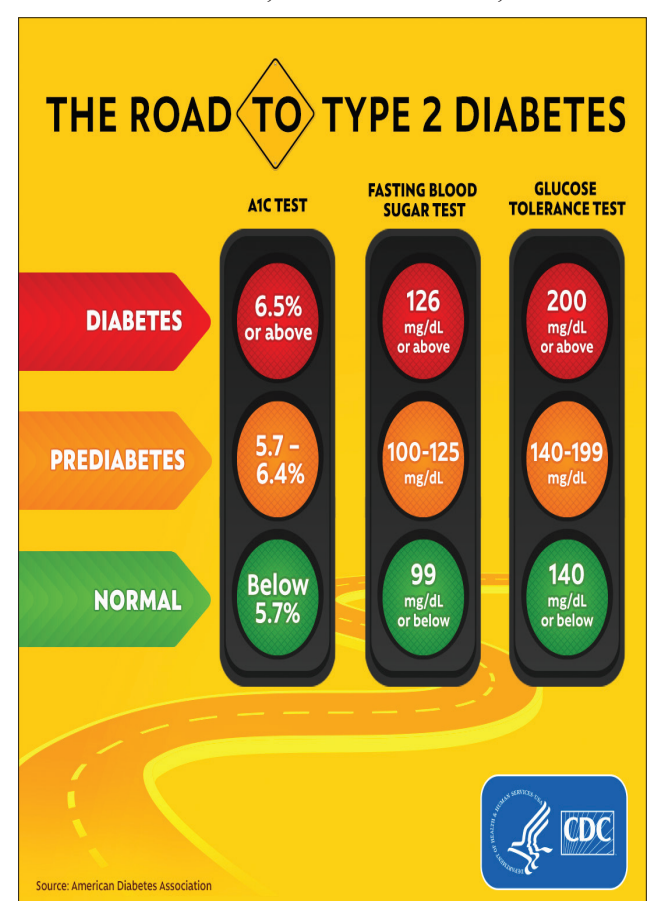
**ROCHELLE** — Rochelle Community Hospital will be hosting a free Prediabetes Program for 12 weeks beginning Wednesday, March 4 through Wednesday, May 20 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the RCH Health & Wellness Center Conference Room.

This 12 week class is adapted from the CDC's National Diabetes Prevention Program which offers a practical approach to those who have been diagnosed as "prediabetic." Prediabetes is when your blood sugar level is higher than it should be but not high enough for your doctor to diagnose diabetes. Classes will offer education on numerous topics including diet, exercise, cooking, lifestyle, in a small group setting.

Classes are presented by certified diabetes educators, registered dietitians and/or a registered nurse. In addition, participants receive free A1C testing at the beginning and ending of the program; free gym membership at the RCH HealthWorks Fitness Center for the duration of the course; free pedometer to track activity and take home resource materials.

A Rochelle diabetes educator offers guidance and coaching on what prediabetes means, how it can be managed and how each individual can maintain good health.

There is no cost to attend but a physician referral is required to participate in the program. To register or for more information, call 815-562-2181, ext. 3002.




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# LOCAL NEWS

## Scouts earning achievements

BY ANDREW HEISERMAN  
STAFF WRITER

**ROCHELLE** – BSA Scouts from counties in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin gathered recently to complete different merit badges at the Merit Badge Midway in Dixon.

The Blackhawk Area Council's White Eagle District held the event on Feb. 1 at Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon. The Blackhawk Area Council is chartered by the National Council of Boy Scouts of America and serves local scout troops in 12 counties including Ogle County.

Every merit badge has a requirement or project that must be completed in order to earn it. The badges are used as a way



Scouts work with specially assigned merit badge counselors to complete the merit badge of their choice.

for scouts to achieve the next rank in their journey of becoming an Eagle Scout.

"Boy Scouts earn merit badges to work their way through the

Boy Scout ranks, from Second Class all the way up to Eagle Scout," said Christopher Tenggren, district programs vice chair. "As they complete merit badges, they slowly earn their way up the ranks."

Scouts sign up online and pay a small fee to attend the event, which includes two merit badge sessions and a lunch. During the sign-up process, scouts choose up to two merit badges from a list of 65 that they want to complete that day.

Some badges took four hours to complete, while others were finished in three hours. Each badge time slot was set for four hours to ensure the scouts had enough time to finish.

"When they come to the Midway, they meet in classrooms with counselors who are qualified and assigned to administer that badge," said

Tenggren. "We had both morning and afternoon sessions, and the scouts were allowed to sign up for either one or both."

The Blackhawk Area Council attempts to host the event twice a year. About 500 scouts attended and earned over 1,000 merit badges this year. The Blackhawk Area Council would like to thank everyone involved in making the event a reality.

"We would like to give a special thanks to the devoted scout parents, awesome merit badge counselors and our amazing team of volunteer leaders that make this awesome event possible and such a great success," said Heather Wiedrich, White Eagle District religious emblems coordinator.

"Boy Scouts earn merit badges to work their way through the Boy Scout ranks, from Second Class all the way up to Eagle Scout. As they complete merit badges, they slowly earn their way up the ranks."

Christopher Tenggren



A classroom full of scouts participating in the annual Merit Badge Midway event.



Scouts work together to complete a merit badge that requires them to use a welding helmet.



Above, the entire gymnasium bleachers at Sauk Valley Community College are full of scouts attending to complete up to two merit badges of their choice. Below, Scouts and fellow leaders look over a balcony at the entire event taking place.



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# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### Bernard Rogers

**ROCHELLE** — Bernard “Ben” Rogers, 66, passed away on Monday, Feb. 11, 2020 at UW in Madison, Wisconsin.

Funeral services are pending at Unger Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. Sixth Street, Rochelle. Visit [www.UngerHorner.com](http://www.UngerHorner.com).

## Neighborhood Grants Program application opens for 2020 cycle

**ROCKFORD** — NW HomeStart and the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois are accepting applications for the Neighborhood Grants Program until 5 p.m. on Monday, April 1.

This program is available to neighborhood-based groups and nonprofit organizations operating in Boone, Ogle, Stephenson and Winnebago Counties.

The Neighborhood Grants Program funds neighborhood projects, including but not limited to beautification, crime prevention, surveys, clean ups, newsletters, organizing, reforestation, and resident-focused education. The maximum award from the Neighborhood Grants Program is \$2,500. Awards will be announced in May 2020.

Applications must be submitted through CFNIL’s Web Portal ([cfnil.spectrumportal.net](http://cfnil.spectrumportal.net)) from now until April 1. HomeStart administers the Neighborhood Grants Program, including awarding the grant funds. To learn more about the application, grant guidelines, and how to apply, visit: [cfnil.org/grants/neighborhood/](http://cfnil.org/grants/neighborhood/).

Through the partnership, HomeStart will offer the chance for a team to attend the NeighborWorks Community Leadership Institute this fall. This event is geared toward citizens who are seeking to learn about neighborhood improvement strategies that can be put into practice in their own communities. Visit [nwhomestart.org](http://nwhomestart.org) to learn more about the NeighborWorks Community Leadership Institute.



**Pictured with city manager Jeff Fiegenschuh are Rochelle firefighters recognized Monday night (left to right) Lt. Zach Prewett, Curt Helgren, Josh Lewis, Tyler Carls and Heather Johnson. The crew received a Good News Award at Monday’s Rochelle City Council meeting.**

# SALE: Demolition work expected to begin in October

*From page 1*

The proposal included the approval of a contract not to exceed \$50,000 with Willett Hoffman & Associates to oversee all aspects of the bidding and demolition of the facility. According to the proposed timeline laid out during Fiegenschuh’s presentation, the City of Rochelle would purchase Hickory Grove from OCCCA this week before closing on the property in early March. Hickory Grove would continue hosting scheduled events until closing its doors on July 19, when the city will begin auctioning off materials and equipment to recoup overdue utility costs.

Willett Hoffman would then conduct asbestos and mold inspections throughout early July before beginning the demolition process on Oct. 15. The city would work with a potential developer during the fall and winter months to acquire and develop the site, with demolition and site preparation work completed during that time period as well. Both Fiegenschuh

and Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows clarified Monday evening that any construction work on the Hickory Grove site will not impact neighboring hotel and condominium facilities.

“I’m committed to this project and I will personally oversee this project,” Fiegenschuh said. “I think there’s a real opportunity to turn that site into a real gem for our community. We’ve worked really hard over the last few years to redevelop the downtown area, and we’re going to continue that, but we can’t forget about the other corridors in our community... I think there’s an opportunity to turn that site into something we can all be very, very proud of.”

## Notables

The City Council approved a roughly \$1.2-million contract with Martin and Company Excavating, as well as a \$108,000 improvement add-on, for construction work on Mulford Road from Union Pacific Railroad to Creston Road along the Rochelle Municipal Landfill. The City Council



**Dwayne Rangel, right, was the recipient of a Good News Award at Monday night’s Rochelle City Council meeting. City manager Jeff Fiegenschuh presented Rangel, who works for the city’s water department, with the award.**

also approved an escrow agreement between the City of Rochelle, Rochelle Waste Disposal LLC and Central Bank Illinois for construction on Mulford Road.

The City Council authorized an ordinance amending the Municipal Code to allow for 16 eligible employees (above age 55 and with

at least 15 years of service) to qualify for early separation incentives. Lastly, the City Council approved a resolution authorizing an updated agreement with Sprint for continued operation and maintenance of cellular communications equipment on the water tower located over the Illinois Route 251 overpass.

# SCHOOL: Principals give updates

*From page 1*

Since January or February of last year, the district and the schools have been working on what they call a continuous improvement model. Each principal shared with the board what they have accomplished so far and what they are continuing to improve upon.

“Our first update was back in October and our principals had explained what they were going to be working on. Now we would like to present on where we are at,” said Harper.

The first two principals to give their updates were Central School principal Celeste Canfield and Lincoln School principal Justin Adolph.

Their schools have been focusing on expanding the Dual Language program to third graders as well as pre-K students. The schools are also working to find more native Spanish speaking teachers.

“This is our third year rolling out the dual language program, and this year we are preparing them for third grade next year,” said Canfield.

“We also went and observed a pre-K program in Berwyn, and they are different because a lot of places, like us, start their program in kindergarten. But their pre-K program was very well developed because they started them earlier,” explained Adolph.

Lincoln School just began planning its pre-K program with the two teachers.

The other schools discussed goals such as school safety improvements and social-emotional improve-

ments. Some of these improvements included providing more access to one-on-one counselor sessions for students.

“Our counselor has moved to monthly lessons in the classroom and is now providing more individual and group counseling supports for those students who need it,” said Tilton School principal Jennifer Derricks.

Rochelle Middle School is also bringing in speakers from Northern Illinois University to present to the staff. RMS is also allowing an NIU, PhD student who is conducting a study on how middle school students react to what their parents say. She will survey many of the students in the school and present the data to the staff. This is being done to better understand ways to communicate with students.

## Action items

The items on the agenda that required action from the board included approving the 2020-21 school year calendar.

“The year will be 185 days with three teacher institute days and five emergency days, as mandated by the state,” said Harper.

The second action item was approving the Health Life Safety Bid that was presented to board members during last month’s meeting.

The final item approved was to move forward in the application process for an Illinois State Board of Education Maintenance Grant. The grant is for up to \$50,000 in funds that can be used for building work.

This is a matching grant.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Man arrested for improper cannabis container

On Feb. 7 at 11:45 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 500 block of South Seventh Street, in Rochelle, for an equipment violation. After a short investigation, Anthony M. Urrutia, 28, of Sterling, was arrested for improper cannabis container-passenger. Urrutia was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On Feb. 7 at 6:51 p.m., following a traffic stop at Illinois Route 251 and Lake Lida Lane in Rochelle, deputies arrested Jacob R. Albers, 26, of Mendota, for driving while license suspended. Albers was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On Feb. 8 at approximately 2 a.m., deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 39 mile marker 102. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested a juvenile, 17, of Rockford, for no valid driver's license. The juvenile was also issued citations for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and improper lane usage. The juvenile was taken into limited custody and released to a guardian.

On Feb. 9 at 5:42 p.m.,

Ogle County Sheriff's deputies responded to an address in the 1900 block of North Church Road for a domestic disturbance. After a short investigation, deputies arrested Craig M. Larson Jr., 23, of Kings, for disorderly conduct. Larson was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On Feb. 9 at approximately 9:40 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies responded to an address in Stillman Valley for the report of vehicular hijacking with a weapon. Sheriff's Deputies conducted a lengthy investigation with the assistance of the Ogle County K9, Illinois State Police, Rockford Police and the Winnebago County Sheriff's office. Pursuant to the investigation, William Silas, 18, of Richton Park, was arrested for vehicular hijacking, two counts of aggravated robbery, two counts of aggravated battery, possession of a stolen motor vehicle, two counts of aggravated assault and driving while license was suspended. Silas was confined at the Ogle County Jail awaiting a court appearance.

## Man cited for disobeying a stop sign

On Feb. 7 at 1:26 p.m., Rochelle police cited Patrick B. Coleman, 35, of Rochelle, for disobeying a stop sign. He issued a promise to comply. His court date is set for March 13.

On Feb. 7 at 12:31 p.m., Rochelle police arrested Richard K. Mack, 22, of Rochelle, for having cannabis in his vehicle. He posted I-bond. His court date is set for March 13.

On Feb. 7 at 12:57 p.m., Rochelle police cited Yunion Valazquez-Ramos, 36, of Rockford, for expired registration. He issued a promise to comply. His court date is set for March 13.

On Feb. 7 at 9:23 p.m., Rochelle police arrested Karl D. Fell, 44, of Rochelle, for criminal sexual assault and obstructing a police officer. He was transported to jail. He currently has no set court date.

On Feb. 8 at 12:22 p.m., Rochelle police arrested Steven M. Huffstatler, 30, of Rochelle, on a both a Lee and Ogle County warrant. He posted both \$50 and \$494 bond. His court date is set for March 12.

On Feb. 8 at 1:41 p.m., Rochelle police arrested Kyle D. Montgomery, 30, of Rochelle, on an Ogle County warrant. He was transported to jail.

On Feb. 10 at 8:26 p.m., Rochelle police cited Diamante A. Godina, 19, of Rochelle, for failure to reduce speed. She issued a promise to comply. Her court date is set for March 13.

On Feb. 10 at 7:15 p.m., Rochelle police arrested Justin M. Carraher, 32, of DeKalb, on a DeKalb County warrant. He was transported to jail.

## Remembering John Caron

BY ANDREW HEISERMAN  
STAFF WRITER

**A**N individual who played a large role in shaping the City of Rochelle passed away last month.

Surrounded by his loving wife and family in Greenwich, Connecticut, longtime Rochelle resident John Caron died peacefully on Jan. 15. Caron was born on July 1, 1924 in Chicago, but grew up in Rochelle.

His father, O.J. Caron, opened a textile manufacturing company, Caron Spinning, on May 8, 1915 in Rochelle. The factory helped employ over 300 of the town's residents including John. He grew up working summers at his father's factory until he was old enough to go to college.

"John would spend summers at his father's business as a young man," said Ann Caron, widow of John. "Then, he went to Notre Dame, graduated with a degree in chemical engineering and served in the Navy during WWII."

After the war, he returned to work at his father's company, working his way up to CEO. At this time, the company had expanded to four states and five countries overseas. Additionally, the company changed its name from Caron Spinning to Caron International.

John lived in Rochelle during the week for work, but would stay with his sister in Chicago every weekend to enjoy the social life the city had to offer. It was in Chicago where he met his future wife Ann while on a double date with his girlfriend at the time and best friend.

**"The Caron's had an impact on the community because when John's father opened the business, families from Quebec followed. Families like the Cotes, Plourdes and of course the Carons can all still be found in Rochelle."**



John Caron (left) with an employee at Caron International in Rochelle in 1941.

"I lived in a suburb of Chicago and I was dating his best friend," said Ann. "The next time my boyfriend and I went out, I asked him to bring John for a friend of mine. Once dinner was over, John and I asked ourselves why we weren't with each other. Then, six weeks later we were engaged."

Ann said she and John felt and instantaneous connection. The two were married when John was 32 and Ann was 23. The two continued living in Rochelle, had six children and became very involved in many organizations. Some of John's passions included religion, education and helping those in need.

"John was very generous and devoted to good causes, such as third world poverty causes and the Catholic church," said Ann. "He was chairman of the board of Technoserve, a non-profit organization that provides business solutions to rural poverty in over 30 countries. He was also chairman of the board of the National Catholic



John Caron passed away on Jan. 15, 2020, surrounded by his wife and family in Greenwich, Connecticut.

Reporter, an independent weekly newspaper, and chairman of the St. Michael's Church Building Committee."

On top of the work that John completed through his time assisting organizations, Caron International had a large impact on the community as well.

When John's father moved from Quebec, Canada, to Rochelle to start his business, many families followed him to settle in the community.

"The Caron's had an impact on the community because when John's father opened the business, families from Quebec followed," said Pauline (Caron) Brass, John's cousin. "Families like the Cotes, Plourdes and of course the Carons can all still be found in Rochelle."

John also sponsored Pauline's husband, Winston Brass, to come to Rochelle from India. Winston went on to

become a Rochelle police officer and eventually police chief for a number of years.

Pauline remembers John as a very nice, fair person and businesslike employer. He made sure to keep the same values that his father had instilled in the business.

"John carried on the traditions of hard work and family atmosphere that uncle O.J. had created when he started Caron International," said Pauline.

John and Ann continued to live in Rochelle until 1966, when the two moved to Greenwich, Connecticut, to be closer to the business headquarters. Caron International had moved its headquarters from Rochelle to New York.

While in Connecticut, John began to follow his love for the outdoors and adventure. His passions brought him skiing, camping, fishing and cycling around the world with family and friends.

He also loved to read, and he was the leader of the Great Books Discussion group program at the Greenwich Library for many years. He passed away peacefully at the age of 95 years old.

He is survived by his wife Ann and their children; John (Dede), Peter, Paul (Andrea), Mark (Lisa), Elizabeth (Latif) and Cathleen (Woody), and 10 grandchildren, Joe, Frank, Tom, Maddie, Robbie, Ian, Alex, Jessica, Nick and Marley.

Pauline (Caron) Brass

### Report policy

Any arrests listed in this paper are merely charges and the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Please note that all police reports received

from the Rochelle Police, the Ogle County Sheriff's Department and the Illinois State Police, will be printed without exception. Requests to omit particular reports will not be considered or honored at any time.

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# LOCAL VIEWS

## Guest column

### Fair map won't happen with current makeup of Illinois Supreme Court

ILLINOIS will never have fair maps for its legislative districts under the present Illinois Supreme Court. There is an opportunity in November to change the court, yet I fear the contest will not be engaging, even though it's long past time for a change.

This is political inside baseball, so stick with me on this, if you're interested.

In 1964, Democratic Governor Otto Kerner and Chicago Mayor Richard Daley made changes in the state judiciary that included a kind of gerrymandering, if you will. Previously, Illinois had seven Supreme Court justices from seven districts. The new structure called for the same seven justices, one each from four districts outside Cook County (Chicago), but with three justices elected countywide in Cook.

This latter proviso all but guaranteed there would be a Democratic majority on the court, as there has been continuously since 1964. Three Democrats are routinely elected from Cook County, always the ones endorsed by the Cook County Democratic Central Committee. In 1964 and forward, Democrats banked on a fourth Dem from the deep southern Illinois district, which was the case until a decade ago.

If Cook were divided into three one-justice districts, like the rest of the state, the outcome would likely have been two Democrats from Chicago districts and one GOPer from the county's suburbs. And thus, the court might have bounced back and forth between Democratic and Republican 4-3 majorities, as one or more of the downstate districts is typically competitive on a partisan basis.

Over the decades, the Democratic court majority has been reliably protective of the interests of Cook County Demo-

crats, rejecting efforts to create term limits, and rebuffing court challenges to heavily gerrymandered legislative districting.

The Illinois Constitution requires that districts shall be "compact, contiguous and substantially equal in population." The dictionary defines "compact" as "closely and neatly packed together; dense."

In sharp contrast, the 2010 state House districts drawn by Speaker Mike Madigan snake and squiggle out from Chicago into the suburbs in finger-like projections. Readers can Google "Illinois State Representative District maps" to see this. The Illinois Supreme Court Democratic majority said they passed constitutional muster! And it will say so again, after next year's redistricting — unless the court is changed.

For the past 20 years, Justice Thomas Kilbride, a Democrat, has served as the justice from the 3rd District, which covers most of central Illinois, from Rock Island-Moline to Peoria to Joliet. He was elected 20 years ago with a late, unexpected campaign infusion of \$1 million from Democratic House Speaker Michael Madigan. In 2010, the justice spent \$2.5 million, largely from Mike Madigan, and was retained with just less than 66 percent of the vote.

Kilbride seeks retention for another 10-year term, and needs to achieve support from 60 percent of voters at the November general election.

If Kilbride were to fail in his retention bid, the court would likely become 3-3 on a partisan basis. Democrats alone would thus be unable to overrule a lower court ruling that finds a new, gerrymandered redistricting failed to meet the

"compact" requirements of the constitution. Then, in 2022, there would be an election to fill the vacancy in the 3rd District.

Speaker Madigan, also chair of the Illinois Democratic Party, and Gov. JB Pritzker will spend all the millions they think necessary to protect this Supreme Court seat. On the other side, the Illinois Republican Party doesn't have two nickels to rub together. And the party's big donors are still smarting from recent losses. They may fear being overwhelmed by the almost limitless political treasury of billionaire Pritzker.

As an old campaign manager for statewide and presidential candidates, I don't think a challenge has to match opponents dollar for dollar to be successful.

First, the powerful, tried and true slogan, "It's time for a change" was never more apt, after more than half a century of continuous one-party domination of the court. Second,

the public is at present sour toward incumbents, maybe with good reason. Third, the 3rd District is trending Republican, carrying unpopular GOP Governor Bruce Rauner handily in 2018.

This is a golden opportunity to achieve

redistricting reform, and maybe, over time, additional good government structural changes. It's time for a change.

For many years, Jim Nowlan was a senior

fellow and political science professor at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. He has worked for three unindicted governors and published a weekly newspaper in central Illinois.



Jim Nowlan

## Letter to the Editor

### Weather doesn't keep tree recycling program from being successful

Dear Editor,

The 2019-2020 Christmas Tree Recycling Program recently wrapped up and was successful despite some weather difficulties.

Even though the winter has been very mild, timely winter storms hampered the local high school FFA collections as the safety of the students took priority. There were approximately 500 trees that were chipped in Ogle County this year, which is about 13 tons of waste diverted from the landfill. Approximately 15,400 trees have been recycled since the beginning of the program in the winter of 1998-99, which is about 386 tons of trees that have been kept out of the landfill.

Drop-offs were located in seven communities, including Byron, Forreston, Leaf River, Monroe Center, Oregon, Polo, and Rochelle. In addition, high school FFA organizations from Byron, Oregon, Polo and Forreston were scheduled to collect trees on Jan. 11 and on Jan. 18. The weather caused

some difficulties each of those days, but the FFA programs adjusted and went out when possible and coordinated with local street departments to ensure trees were collected. The trees were all chipped into usable mulch, which is available at some of the sites for pickup. Contact the Solid Waste Department at 815-732-4040 if you are interested in the free mulch in your area.

The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department wishes to thank the following groups for their contribution to the Ogle County Christmas Tree Recycling Program: The City of Byron, Byron High School FFA, Lichty's Landscaping Service, Village of Forreston, Forreston High School FFA, Village of Leaf River, Oregon Park District, Oregon High School FFA, Flag-Rochelle Park District, City of Rochelle, Polo High School FFA and Morgan's Tree Service.

Paul Cooney

Ogle County Solid Waste Department



## VOICE ON THE STREET

### Question:

**On Monday night City council approved the acquisition and demolition of the Hickory Grove Banquet & Convention Center, paving the way for a development partner to construct a new mixed-use property on the site. What are your thoughts on this?**



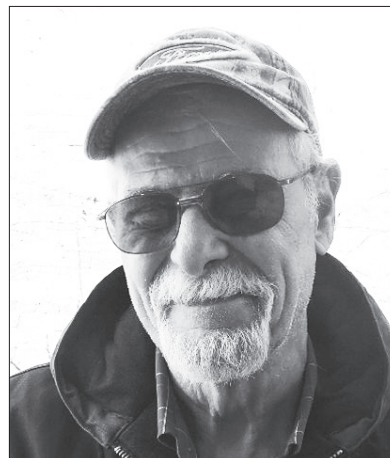
**"It definitely needs an update, not necessarily to be torn down. I think that it needs to be used more but not torn down."**

Jamie Mancillas



**"I think that it is OK. Why not improve is what I say."**

Susie Schwingle



**"I don't think that it should be torn down. Why can't it be utilized for something else? There is no need to spend the money to tear it down and build something completely new. There is an existing building already there that can be used."**

Gary Williams

## How to contact government officials

U.S. Con. Adam Kinzinger  
1218 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C.  
20515  
(202) 225-3635

IL Sen. Brian Stewart  
M104A State House  
Springfield, IL 62706  
(217) 782-0180

IL Rep. Tom Demmer  
314 Capitol  
Springfield, IL 62706  
(217) 782-0535

Have a letter you want to submit to us? Send it to (news@rochelle-news-leader.com

## KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

\* Denotes Chairman/President

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Rochelle News-Leader encourages responsible letters to the editor on subjects of interest to our readers. Editing may be necessary for space, clarity or to avoid obscenity or libel, but ideas will not be altered. All letters must bear the handwritten signature of the writer and include address and phone number or e-mail address for verification purposes. Neither the street address nor phone number will be printed. Letters should be typed or legibly

handwritten, and no anonymous letters will be published. Any letters from boards or organizations must include at least one name of an individual. Any criticism of public officials should be limited to issues related strictly to their position or actions made in office, as personal attacks will not be published. Letters involving private disputes between the writer and a business will not be published. Political endorsements will be published,

however letters from candidates endorsing themselves will not be printed. Letters may be dropped at the News-Leader office (211 IL Route 38 East), mailed to the News-Leader (P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068) or e-mailed (news@rochellenews-leader.com.) The News-Leader reserves the right to edit or reject any letter to the editor for any reason, and letters chosen for publication do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper.



— King Crossword — — Weekly Sudoku —



# STATE NEWS

## Committee presses for automatic voter registration answers

Programming error was 'wakeup call' for election officials

BY REBECCA ANZEL  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

**SPRINGFIELD**—A programming error in Illinois' automatic voter registration system that mistakenly enrolled more than 500 people was a "wakeup call," the state's top elections official said Feb. 5.

One string of code among 8.5 million others controlling the "hundreds of functions" of the secretary of state's office resulted in 574 people who identified themselves as non-U.S. citizens being registered to vote, the agency's senior legal advisor, Nathan Maddox, said.

Of those people, 15 cast ballots. Only one was not a citizen, Maddox said.

"I think that if there's a silver lining to this, it's going to cause us to make sure that our systems are as good as they can possibly be," Steve Sandvoss, director of the Illinois State Board of Elections, said.

Four Republican rep-



(CREDIT BLUEROOMSTREAM.COM)

(From left) Reps. Ryan Spain, R-Peoria, Keith Wheeler, R-Oswego, Joe Sosnowski, R-Rockford, and Tim Butler, R-Springfield, each had questions for Illinois secretary of state representatives about glitches in the state's automatic voter registration program Wednesday during a House committee hearing at the Capitol.

representatives spent more than an hour Wednesday, on the eve of early voting opening for the state's March 17 primary election, questioning secretary of state and elections board officials. Springfield Rep. Tim Butler said several instances caused "fears that our elections system is compromised," and asked what can be done to alleviate further

issues.

"What has come to light in the past few weeks—from self-identified non-citizens registering, to 16-year-olds being forwarded through the system, to people who opted out of registering actually being forwarded, to this week's revelation ... that almost 800 previously incarcerated Illinois citizens had their

voting rights cancelled—has certainly wounded the integrity of voter registration here in Illinois," Butler said.

Secretary of state officials, who took responsibility for the errors, said legislative solutions are not necessary to address lawmaker concerns. Ultimately, Maddox said, "there is no part of this that is not going to be

reviewed."

Jeff Clines, director of Information Technology for the agency, added that his staff is "testing and reviewing" the programs in place to ensure there are no other problems and are "looking for opportunities" to better the system.

Maddox said the office plans to add an "exit button" to the signature pad, as recommended by the elections board. It will enable those applying for a driver's license to not be added to the state's voter rolls. The office also plans to make that opt-out language more clear.

Officials did not clearly indicate whether more training for the roughly 2,300 Department of Motor Services employees—who are on the "frontlines" of automatic voter registration, Butler said—is needed. Currently, regional managers receive memos detailing policies, procedures and best practices. Managers then work with attendants on how to execute those.

Brenda Glahn, senior legal advisor for the secretary of state's office, said the office is "always looking for ways, if we see that a particular error [has been made], we certainly will send out another memo."

"I do want to point out that this was an error, and there was no effort put forth to hide anything or to cook the books, so to speak," Secretary of State Jesse White said. "We want to make sure that not only do we take on the job, but we take on the responsibility that goes along with it; and we want to make sure that the individuals who have registered to vote get an opportunity to do so."

Rep. Joe Sosnowski, of Rockford, asked both agencies to update the General Assembly on the progress of any steps that will be taken in May before it adjourns.

Secretary of state and Board of Elections representatives emphasized Illinois' voter registration and election processes are of the utmost importance.

## Survey finds pessimism toward Illinois public schools

Broad support for increased funding, raising teacher pay

BY PETER HANCOCK  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

**SPRINGFIELD**—Most adults in Illinois give the state's public school system only a so-so grade, but they give slightly higher marks for their own local schools.

That's according to a new survey commissioned by the Illinois Education Association, the state's largest teachers union. The survey, called the State of Education Report, also found broad public support for increasing funding for K-12 education and raising educator salaries.

"High-quality public education remains a high priority, and while there is no consensus on how to fix schools, funding and quality teachers are seen as a key," IEA President Kathi Griffin said during a news conference Tuesday.

The survey of 1,000 adults in Illinois was conducted Nov. 13-21 by Normington-Petts & Associates, a Democratic polling firm, and We Ask America, a Republican-leaning firm. The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

When asked to give the state's public school system a letter grade, only 2 percent of respondents gave it an A, while 20 percent gave it a B, both down slightly from a similar survey conducted last year. Forty-one percent gave the state a C, while 31 percent gave it a D or F.

Opinions were slightly more positive when respondents were asked

about the schools in their own local community: 16 percent gave an A to their local schools and 37 percent gave them a B. Forty-three percent gave their local schools a C or lower.

Griffin said the survey revealed no clear consensus about how to improve the state's school system, although 59 percent said having high-quality public schools should be a "top priority." The only other issue that ranked higher in the survey was cleaning up corruption in state government. Reducing crime, balancing the state budget and lowering taxes all ranked lower.

The survey also found broad support for increasing education funding in Illinois. Overall, two-thirds of respondents said the state should increase school funding compared to only 5 percent who said it should be cut and 23 percent who said it should stay the same.

The survey did not ask respondents where they think the additional money should come from. Griffin, however, said she believes the state needs to continue funding the Evidence Based Funding program that lawmakers passed in 2017, and that it should do so with revenue from the proposed graduated income tax amendment that will be on the November general election ballot.

"(T)hat will assist in making sure that our schools have the resources they need so that we can provide a quality education for all of our students," she said.

The survey was conducted just months after Illinois lawmakers passed measures aimed at relieving the state's

teacher shortage. Those included bills raising the minimum wage for teachers to \$40,000 by 2023 and easing some of the state's licensing requirements. Griffin, however, said it will take time for the effects of those new laws to set in.

Just over half of all respondents in the survey said they believe teachers in their communities are paid too little, while only 8 percent said they

were paid too much. One-third said they thought teacher salaries were about right.

The survey also found support for other measures aimed at reducing the state's teacher shortage, including lowering the minimum retirement age for teachers in the Tier 2 retirement system—those hired since 2011—to 60 instead of 67.

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RTHS Wrestling

# The sectional six

Nadig wins 126-pound title, Hubs finish third at Sycamore regional

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**SYCAMORE** — One match separated Rochelle 132-pounder Grant Thompson from earning his first-ever sectional berth during the IHSA 2A Sycamore Individual Regional on Saturday.

After falling in the semifinals, Thompson won his way into the third-place bout with a pin against Burlington Central's SayfAfeef. The junior squared off against Boylan Catholic's Adam Monteleone for a spot in the sectional championships next weekend, and a 0-0 tie quickly disappeared as Thompson threw Monteleone down for a 51-second pin. Thompson (22-18) will be one of six Hubs going to the IHSA 2A Individual Sectional at Rochelle Township High School.

"It feels great since I wasn't able to compete in the regional last season because of my concussion," Thompson said. "I came into today's meet thinking I was going to make it. After my loss, I knew that I would be done if I lost again, so I couldn't let that happen. It's another chance for me to make the state meet, and I'm hoping that I can make it."

Thompson and sopho-



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle wrestling team qualified six boys for the IHSA 2A Sectional at RTHS this Friday and Saturday. Above from left to right are regional medalists Grant Thompson, Keegan Davis-Carter, Ben Harvey, Gavin Ansteth, Ethan Tooley and Caleb Nadig.

more Ethan Tooley (22-18) will both be representing the Hubs next weekend as first-time sectional qualifiers. Tooley took second place in the 145-pound bracket, earning a first-round bye before dominating Burlington Central's Nathan Kim with an 11-0 major. Tooley was one of three Rochelle wrestlers to finish second in the

regional tournament, joining 138-pounder Keegan Davis-Carter (28-9) and 182-pounder Ben Harvey (36-3).

"It feels really good, especially because I dropped out last season due to my weight," Tooley said. "I was focused and ready to wrestle. I had faced that kid before, and I was able to finish him off. I'm

really excited this season, and I'm hoping there's a possibility for me to go to state."

Sophomore Caleb Nadig (31-6) swept the 126-pound bracket to claim Rochelle's only regional title on Saturday. Nadig polished off both Aurora Christian's Adan Rocha and Sycamore's Nicholas Lockhart

with first-period pins to win the championship. Two Hubs placed third in the regional tournament including Thompson and 195-pounder Gavin Ansteth (24-10), who clinched his sectional spot with a pin in his conference rematch with Sycamore's Jackson Funderburg.

Rochelle took third

place out of eight teams with 129 points on Saturday. Three Hubs finished fourth including 170-pounder Bryan Garza (27-14), 152-pounder Zeke Horn (23-20) and 285-pounder Zack Capes (19-18). Senior Diego Escobar (10-9) earned one win in the 160-pound bracket, scoring two points for the Hubs.

RTHS Girls Basketball

## Scoreless quarter stalls Lady Hubs against Dixon

Duchesses coast 56-21 over flat Rochelle squad

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — The Lady Hubs opened their nonconference matchup against Dixon with zero points on the scoreboard. When the first quarter expired, Rochelle still had a goose egg, and the Duchesses were well on their way to an easy victory.

Dixon tipped off the contest with a 10-0 performance in the first quarter behind Madelyn Chesley and Abby Guthrie, who combined for 29 points Tuesday evening. While the Lady Hubs fought back with a 9-4 run to begin the second quarter, the 25-win Duchesses were too strong, winning 56-21 and dropping Rochelle to 4-25 overall.

"We were flat tonight and we didn't have much

bounce in our step on offense," head coach Tony Rowan said. "I thought we moved well defensively. We played a 25-win team tonight, and they scored their buckets when they needed them, but only allowing 10 points in the first quarter was huge for us... We need to be more consistent from quarter to quarter."

Lady Hub guards Josie Lundquist and Sofia Lenkaitis initiated the Rochelle run in the second quarter, with both players hitting 3-pointers during the surge. Unfortunately for the purple and white, Lenkaitis and Lundquist were the only Rochelle players to score over the first three quarters on Tuesday.

See **GIRLS** page 3



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Sophomore Lucy Bunger dribbles around Dixon's Abby Guthrie during Rochelle's basketball game against the Duchesses on Tuesday.





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## HUB SPOTLIGHT



**Aidan**

**Darby**

*Year: Freshman*

*Sport: Basketball*

**Q: How many years have you been playing this sport?**

*A: Eight years.*

**Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?**

*A: I like the fast pace and I love when our team gets on a roll.*

**Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?**

*A: English because I like writing and I have a great imagination.*

**Q: Who is your favorite athlete and why?**

*A: LeBron James because he's a great role model and he came from nothing.*

**Q: Who is your biggest role**

**model and why?**

*A: My dad because he works hard to help get me to where I'm at today.*

**Q: What is your dream job and why?**

*A: To be an NFL All-Pro or an NBA All-Star.*

**Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?**

*A: Europe because I'd like to see the religion and buildings.*

**Q: What is your favorite thing about being a student-athlete at RTHS?**

*A: I feel like I'm involved and I can walk around town and have people know who I am.*



**Landon**

**DeLille**

*Year: Freshman*

*Sport: Basketball*

**Q: How many years have you been playing this sport?**

*A: Seven years.*

**Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?**

*A: I enjoy the fast pace and the energy from the crowd.*

**Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?**

*A: Biology because I learn about the science in the world around us.*

**Q: Who is your favorite athlete and why?**

*A: Walter Payton because he worked really hard and he cared about being a good person.*

**Q: Who is your biggest role**

**model and why?**

*A: My uncle because he works hard to achieve his goals.*

**Q: What is your dream job and why?**

*A: To be a game designer because I enjoy playing and watching video games.*

**Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?**

*A: Alaska because that's the only state I haven't been to.*

**Q: What is your favorite thing about being a student-athlete at RTHS?**

*A: I enjoy getting to meet new people and receive all the support from the community.*



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# SPORTS



Junior Sofia Lenkaitis (left) and sophomore Josie Lundquist (right) combined for 16 of the Rochelle girls basketball team's 21 points against the Dixon Duchesses on Tuesday.

(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

## GIRLS: Rochelle earns No. 7 seed in Sycamore regional

From page 1

Both Chesley and Guthrie reached double figures for Dixon in the first half, where the Duchesses sprinted ahead 28-12.

"A lot of their work was done off screens," Rowan said. "Dixon does a good job of setting screens and bodying up defenders. The more screens they set,

the more down we got on defense, and they found their openings."

Dixon dominated the third quarter, outscoring the Lady Hubs 19-4 with Rochelle's only points coming on 2-point shots from Lenkaitis and Lundquist, who teamed up for 16 points Tuesday. Chesley led the Duchesses with 15 points in the game, while Guthrie

followed closely with 14 points. Rochelle will face LaSalle-Peru on the road Thursday evening at 7 p.m.

"I thought we were flat-footed tonight and we weren't in attack mode," Rowan said. "More kids need to step up and have the want to score, set screens and cut hard. Today, we didn't really have the want, and hopefully

that comes back for the game on Thursday."

Rochelle received the No. 7 seed in the IHSA 3A Sycamore Regional next week. The Lady Hubs will face No. 9 seed Belvidere in the quarterfinals on Monday, Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. The winner will advance and play No. 1 seed Sycamore in the semifinal round on Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 6 p.m.

"I thought we were flat-footed tonight and we weren't in attack mode. More kids need to step up and have the want to score, set screens and cut hard. Today, we didn't really have the want..."

Tony Rowan

### RTHS Girls Bowling

## Lady Hubs take 10th in IHSA Dixon Regional

Four sophomores headline eligible players for next season

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**DIXON** — The Rochelle girls bowling team concluded its season in the IHSA Dixon Regional at Plum Hollow Lanes on Saturday. The Lady Hubs finished 10th overall, scoring 3,823 pins.

Sophomore Alyssa Schwanert led Rochelle with a 913 series and a high game of 164, while junior Kiya Porter added 828 pins and sophomore Anna Samo totaled 768 pins. Rochelle knocked down 1,975 pins over the first three games of regional action, recording team games of 654, 672 and 649.

"I thought the girls did well overall," head coach Joey Johanning said. "It was a new environment for players like Anna and Carly [Summers]. Alyssa [Mickley] was hurt over the last few games, which hurt her chances of going to sectionals. Alyssa [Schwanert] bowled well, and overall, I was impressed with how the girls worked as a team."

The Lady Hubs closed the tournament with 1,848 pins over the last three games and team scores of 656, 642 and 550. Sophomore Alyssa Mickley and senior Cassie Moore combined for 976 pins in the regional event.

"We stress picking up spares all season long,

and the girls saw that during the regional," Johanning said. "Spares are the keys to success. The strikes will come, but the spares need to be picked up, and not letting one game have too high or low of an effect will help the girls mentally."

The regional tournament closed out the 2019-20 season for the Lady Hubs, who finished 3-13 overall with two Interstate 8 Conference wins over the Ottawa Pirates. A small roster made tournaments difficult on the Rochelle team, but with only one graduating senior (Cassie Moore), Johanning is optimistic for the future of the program.

"I was very pleased with the season," Johanning said. "The girls put a lot of work in this season, and their improvements were definitely visible. Getting those wins at the end of the season really helped their confidence, and we'll have some momentum going into the offseason."

Rochelle concluded the season with four sophomores in its varsity lineup including Alyssa Mickley, Alyssa Schwanert, Anna Samo and Carly Summers. Junior Kiya Porter will also be eligible to return next season. With nearly their whole lineup possible returning for the 2020-21



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior Kiya Porter strides down the approach for the Lady Hubs. Porter is one of five varsity bowlers eligible to return to the team next season.

season, the Lady Hubs are looking to keep improving in the offseason.

"Their drive and deter-

mination excites me the most," Johanning said. "We have a few more years to keep building

them up. I know that Anna and Carly are getting new balls soon, and I'm sure the two Alyssas will have

some new equipment as well. I know the girls will continue to work on their skills."



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## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE  
NOTICE TO BIDDERS  
County Ogle  
City of Rochelle

2nd Ave. Reconst.  
Sealed proposals for the improvement described below will be received at the office of City Clerk, City of Rochelle, 420 N. 6th Street, Rochelle, IL until 10:00 AM on February 20, 2020  
Sealed proposals will be opened and read publicly at the office of City Clerk, City of Rochelle, 420 N. 6th

Street, Rochelle, IL at 10:00 AM on February 20, 2020  
DESCRIPTION OF WORK  
2nd Avenue Reconstruction Length: 1110.00 feet (0.21 miles)  
12th Street south of Lincoln Ave. and 2nd Ave. west of S. 12th Street, Rochelle, IL  
Proposed Improvement  
Reconstruct existing S. 12th Street and W. 2nd Avenue. New storm sewer will be installed on each street and water main will be extended to the west end of W. 2nd Avenue.  
1. Plans and proposal

forms will be available in the office of City of Rochelle, 333 Lincoln Avenue, Rochelle, IL 2. Prequalification  
If checked, the 2 low bidders must file within 24 hours after the letting an "Affidavit of Availability" (Form BC 57), in duplicate, showing all uncompleted contracts awarded to them and all low bids pending award for Federal, State, County, Municipal and private work. One original shall be filed with the Awarding Authority and one original with the IDOT District Office.  
3. The Awarding Authority reserves the right to waive technicalities and to reject any or all proposals as provided in BLRS  
Special Provision for Bidding Requirements and Conditions for Contract Proposals.  
4. The following SLR Forms shall be returned by the bidder to the Awarding Authority:  
a. BLR 12200: Local Public Agency Formal Contract Proposal  
b. BLR 12200a Schedule of Prices  
c. BLR 12230: Proposal Bid Bond (if applicable)  
d. BLR 12325: Apprenticeship or Training Program Certification

(do not use for federally funded projects)  
e. BLR 12326: Affidavit of Illinois Business Office  
5. The quantities appearing in the bid schedule are approximate and are prepared for the comparison of bids. Payment to the Contractor will be made only for the actual quantities of work performed and accepted or materials furnished according to the contract. The scheduled quantities of work to be done and materials to be furnished may be increased, decreased or omitted as hereinafter provided.  
6. Submission of a bid shall be conclusive assurance and warranty the bidder has examined the plans and understands all requirements for the performance of work. The bidder will be responsible for all errors in the proposal resulting from failure or neglect to conduct an in depth examination. The Awarding Authority will, in no case be responsible for any costs, expenses, losses or changes in anticipated profits resulting from such failure or neglect of the bidder.  
7. The bidder shall take no advantage of any error or omission in the proposal and advertised contract.  
8. If a special envelope is supplied by the Awarding Authority, each proposal should be submitted in that envelope furnished by the Awarding Agency and the blank spaces on the envelope shall be filled in correctly to clearly indicate its contents.  
When an envelope other than the special one furnished by the Awarding Authority is used, it shall be marked to clearly indicate its contents. When sent by mail, the sealed proposal shall be addressed to the Awarding Authority at the address and in care of the official in whose office the bids are to be received. All proposals shall be filed prior to the time and at the place specified in the Notice to Bidders. Proposals received after the time specified will be returned to the bidder unopened.  
9. Permission will be given to a bidder to withdraw a proposal if the bidder makes the request in writing or in person before the time for opening proposals.  
PROPOSAL  
1. Proposal of for the Improvement of the above section by the construction of Reconstruct existing S. 12th Street and W. 2nd Avenue a total distance of 1110.00 feet, of which a distance of 1110.00 feet, (.21 miles) are to be Improved.  
2. The plans for the proposed work are those prepared by Chastain & Associates and approved by the Department of Transportation on  
3. The specifications referred to herein are those prepared by the Department of Transportation and designated as "Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction and the supplemental Specifications and Recurring Special Provisions thereto, adopted and in effect on the date of Invitation for bids.  
4. The undersigned agrees to accept, as Part of the contract, the applicable Special Provisions indicated on the "Check Sheet for Recurring Special Provisions contained in this proposal.  
5. The undersigned agrees to complete the work within \_\_\_\_\_ working days or by unless additional time is granted in accordance

with the specifications.  
6. A proposal guaranty In the proper amount, as specified in BLRS Special Provision for Bidding Requirements and Conditions for Contract Proposals, will be required. Bid Bonds will be allowed as a proposal guaranty. Accompanying this proposal is either a bid bond if allowed, on Department form BLR 12230 or a proposal guaranty check, complying with the specifications, made payable to: City of Rochelle Treasurer of The amount of the check is 5% of bid price.  
7. In the event that one proposal guaranty check is intended to cover two or more proposals, the amount must be equal to the sum of the proposal guaranties, which would be required for each Individual proposal. If the proposal guaranty check is placed in another proposal, it will be found in the proposal for: Section Number  
8. The successful bidder at the time of execution of the contract will be required to deposit a contract bond for the full amount of the award. When a contract bond is not required, the proposal guaranty check will be held in lieu thereof. If this proposal is accepted and the undersigned fails to execute a contract and contract bond as required, It is hereby agreed that the Bid Bond or check shall be forfeited to the Awarding Authority.  
9. Each pay item should have a unit price and a total price. If no total price is shown or if there is a discrepancy between the product of the unit price multiplied by the quantity, the unit price shall govern. If a unit price is omitted, the total price will be divided by the quantity in order to establish a unit price.  
10. A bid will be declared unacceptable if neither a unit price nor a total price is shown.  
11. The undersigned submits herewith the schedule of prices on BLR 12200a covering the work to be performed under this contract.  
12. The undersigned further agrees that if awarded the contract for the sections contained in the combinations on BLR 12200a, the work shall be in accordance with the requirements of each Individual proposal for the multiple bid specified in the Schedule for Multiple Bids below.  
No. 0209 (Feb. 12, 16)

ON FLAGG TOWNSHIP BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a tentative budget and appropriation ordinance for Flagg Township in the county of Ogle, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year April 1, 2020 and ending March 31, 2021, will be on file and conveniently available for public inspection at the Flagg Township Office Building, 303 W. Highway 38, Rochelle, IL, starting February 11, 2020, during regular office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday - Friday.  
Notice is further given that a public hearing on said budget and appropriation ordinance will be held on Monday, March 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Flagg Township Office Building Board Room, 303 W. Highway 38, Rochelle, IL whereas final action on said ordinance will be taken by the Flagg Township Board of Trustees.  
Joanna G. Patrick  
Flagg Township Clerk

## PUBLIC AUCTION

To help settle the Edwards Estate we will offer at Public Auction the following described quality line of personal property. This Auction will be held at our indoor facility located at **10786 Fowler Rd., Rochelle IL, 61068**. Watch for Bearrows Real Estate & Auction signs from Flagg Rd. & Rt. 251 at the North edge of Rochelle IL. Visit our web site at [www.bearrows.com](http://www.bearrows.com) for further information & pictures.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29th, 2020**  
9:00 AM

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Lunch

**AUCTIONEERS NOTE:** Find full details by going to [www.bearrows.com](http://www.bearrows.com). There are many items not listed, check our web site for further pictures. Plan now to attend!!

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Solid Walnut high boy headboard and matching foot board; Walnut East Lake style drop front desk w/ cubbyholes; Assorted wicker patio furniture; Patio table; Kerosene lamps; Wood & metal egg crates; Telephone stand; Secretary/China hutch; Leather bottom rocker; Cedar chest; King size bed; Full size oak sleigh bed; Oak dresser w/ mirror; Bedroom set; Commode w/ towel bar; 2 School desks; Lg. lion tapestry art; Antique child's rocking horse; Sewing machine; Hall table; Mantle clock; Horse hame mirror; Hall tree; 20 gallon & 6 gallon crocks; Occasional tables; End tables; Wash board; Shadow boxes; Entry umbrella stand w/ mirror; Several antique trunks; Park bench; Glider rocker; Crosley record/cassette player, CD recorder; Flat screen; Recliner; American Indian figurines; Pictures & wall decorations; Retro hat collection; Antique transit level and stand; Board game; Copper boiler; Usual kitchen items; Glassware including some collectable (Hull, Bavaria, cobalt blue, hand blown and others; Lots of pictures and wall decorations. Wooden Rochelle Bottling Co. Crate; Winchester Ammo box; Old marbles; 1942 Ogle County Farm Atlas & Business guide; 1951 Picture of Antique Model Railroad Association; Kerosene lanterns; Milk can; Many other antiques & collectables, too numerous to mention.

### Pickup, Garage Items, Tools & Related Items

2002 Dodge Dakota pickup, 2WD, V8, ext. Cab, Needs engine & body work; 10" Craftsman radial arm saw; Craftsman 12" wood lathe; Craftsman joiner planer; Bench vise; Assorted hand & power tools; Cart table; Rockwell drill press; Disc/belt sander; Torch kit; Cement mixer; Roadmaster girls bike; Power X suspension bike; Electric pressure washer; Portable air compressor; 2 Horse saddles; several primitive tools and items; Upright hand corn sheller; Roller blades; **PERSONAL PROPERTY TERMS:** Cash or Check w/ driver's license I.D., VISA, Master Card, Discover or American Express. 10% Buyers Premium applies to all purchases. Electronic clerking system used. Announcements made the day of Auction take precedence over all prior advertising. Not responsible for accidents or items after sold.

### Edwards Estate - Chana, IL



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## Real Estate Auction

Having decided to sell the Real Estate described within, the Byron Forest Preserve will offer at Public Auction the following described Real Estate. Located at **5500 N Silver Creek Road, Mt. Morris IL 61054**. This Auction will be held indoors on site. Visit our web site at [www.bearrows.com](http://www.bearrows.com) for further information & pictures.

**Saturday, February 22nd, 2020**

11:00 AM

**AUCTIONEERS NOTE:** This is an extremely well kept newer (1996) 2 story home which has approx. 3300+ sq ft., sitting on 4.266 acres. The description of the many upgrades and features are many, and a written description does not do it justice. The views and location are in a class all its own. This is a must see. Plan now on attending!!!

**DESCRIPTION OF REAL ESTATE:** This home is a newer (1996) construction home with large open rooms, vaulted ceilings, fantastic views from the wrap around porch, and many upgrades. It is surrounded on 3 sides by the Byron Forest preserve, and therefore seclusion and privacy is a feature hard to find. On the first floor, there is a large open kitchen, dining and family room, complete with fireplace, hardwood floors and views that are incredible both from inside, as well as the forever wrap around deck. There is also a formal dining room and living room. The grand entry to the home leads to an open stairway, and power chandelier, and a ½ bath off entry. Throughout this home, storage and closets were one of the dominant focuses. Oak cabinetry & floors as well as solid 6 panel doors and trim throughout. Upstairs, the Huge master bedroom complete with fireplace has a 26x12 walk in closet, a full large bath with 2-person jetted tub and separate shower. The other two bedrooms each have a double closet with one having 2 closets. There is a common Bath for the two bedrooms complete with full tub and shower. There is a large laundry room with built in ironing board, folding counter and separate sink. The full finished walkout basement provides yet another family room and fireplace, possible den/bedroom, and another ¾ bath with shower. Mechanicals include central Vac system, LP Gas Forced air furnace, central air, 200-amp C/B, water softener, gas hot water heater, iron out filter and security system. There is a 1000-Gal LP tank that stays with the home. There is supplemental electric heat in the lower level as well. There is also an outside 36'x28' storage barn., For a private viewing, contact Auctioneer John Bearrows at 815-739-9150

**REAL ESTATE TERMS:** \$7,500.00 down the day of the auction, with the balance due on or before March 31, 2020 at which full possession will be given. It should be noted, the sellers are prepared to close sooner if the buyer so chooses. Seller is to provide an appropriate stamped Deed as well as a Title Policy in the amount of the purchase price. This property is being conveyed in its "As-Is" condition without any contingencies with regard to financing and/or the sale of another piece of property. All announcements made the day of the auction take precedence over all prior advertising.

### Byron Forest Preserve

Byron IL



**AUCTIONEERS:**  
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## FARM RETIREMENT AUCTION

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Lunch Comfort Station

**Directions: West of Lee, IL on Lee Rd. 2 miles to sale site or from Route 39 go east on Rt 30, ¼ mile to Paw Paw Rd, then north 2 miles to Lee Rd. then east 1 mile to sale site. Watch for auction signs**

**Saturday, February 22, 2020**

**9:00 AM**

**\*\*Offering both Live onsite and online internet bidding on major items starting at 11:00 \*\***

### Tractors - Combine - Heads

**2007 JD 8330**, MFWD, 4024 hrs., power shift, 4 hyd., 60 GPM hyd. pump, auto steer ready, 1000 pto, rear wheel weights, 480/80R46 w/duals, 380/85R34 front tires, S/N: RW8330P015027, One Owner; **2006 JD 9220**, 4WD, 3766 hrs., 18 sp power shift, 4 hyd., auto steer ready, 710/70R38 W/duals, bare back, S/N: RW9220P042953; **1999 JD 6310**, MFWD, CAH, 6701 hrs., 16 sp., power quad w/reverser, 2 hyd., 540/1000 pto, 18.4-34 rear tires, 340/85 R 24 front tires, w/**JD 640** Loader, joystick & bucket, S/N: LD6310V24812; **Bradco 6'** grapple bucket; pallet forks; **2011 JD 9570** STS Combine, 2WD, Bullet motor, 1512 sep., 2037 eng., Contour Master, Maurer bin ext., chopper, auto steer ready, 30.5L-32 drive tires 18.4-26 rear tires, new Reman engine, 100 hrs. last fall, warranty good until 10/28/20, S/N: 1H09570SJB740555, One Owner; **(2) JD 2600** Displays; **(2) JD Star Fire** iTC; **2012 JD 608C** Corn Head, 8 row, hyd. deck plates, knife rolls, stalk stompers, single point hook up, S/N: 1H00608CL-CX746400, One Owner; **ET Trail 672** Head Trailer; **2001 JD 693** Corn Head, 6 row, poly, hyd. deck plates, knife rolls, single point hook up, w/running gear, S/N: H00693X690744, One Owner; **2012 JD 630F** Grain Platform, 30' Hydra Flex, full finger, single point hook up, S/N: 1H00630FTC0745480; **Unverferth HT 30** Head Trailer.

### Equipment

**2012 JD 1790** 16/32, CCS Seed delivery Planter, twin hoppers, pneumatic down pressure, no till, vacuum, seed firmers, ground driven, Yetter trash wheels, 300 gal. liquid fert. tank, ProMax 40 corn & bean discs, S/N: A01790C730268; **JD 726** Soil Finisher, 30', single point depth control, walking tandems on main frame & wings, 5 bar spike tooth drag; **JD 512** Disc Chisel, 7 shank, 17'6" width, McFarlane 5 bar spike tooth drag, One Owner; **2011 Krause 4850** Dominator, disc ripper, 9 shank, disc levelers, rolling baskets, S/N: 3281; **JD 980** Field Cultivator, 35' walking tandems on main frame & wings, 3 bar tine drag, One Owner; **J & M 1050** Grain Storm Grain Cart, 22' corner auger, hyd. spout, scale, 900/60R32 newer tires, roll tarp, 1000 pto; **JD 1517** Batwing Mower, 15'; **JD 696** Snow Blower, 8', hyd. spout, 1000 pto, 3 pt.; **Ingersoll Rand 125 CFM** portable air compressor, gas; **FFC** box scraper, 7.5', 3pt.; hayrack w/JD gear; 550 gal fuel tank w/electric pump; 1000 gal fuel tank w/electric pump; 1000 gal LP tank; **Lawn Mowers: JD X740** Ultimate, diesel, 670 hrs., 62" deck; **JD 190C** automatic, 54" deck; **JD 300** lawn mower, large lawn roller, Fimco 30 gal. spot sprayer; 60 gal lawn sprayer; fert. spreader.

### Trucks - Trailers - Gator

**2005 Sterling Acterra** Semi Truck, day cab, automatic, Mercedes Benz diesel, single axle, air ride, 230,747 miles; **2005 Ford F 250**, 4x4 pick up truck, Lariat, ext. cab, 210,000 miles; **2000 Jet 34'** Steel Hopper Bottom Grain Trailer, spring ride, roll tarp; **2008 Progressive 7'x16'** Trailer, w/2' beaver tail; **JD 825i** DOHC Gator, 4x4, 660 hrs., hyd dump; **Shop Equipment:** Millermatic 210 wire welder; Lincoln AC 225 amp Welder; Acetylene torch w/tanks; Black Max 60 gal. air compressor; L.B. White Gatorman, 250,000 btu propane heater; JD 3800 psi, 4.06 PM, pressure washer w/motor; (1) Snap On, (2) Craftsman roll away tool boxes; Lawson bolt bin; Craftsman 15" drill press; Craftsman grinder; DeWalt DW871 chop saw; 3 ton floor jack; Werner 24' extension ladder; parts washer; scaffolding; 40' wood extension ladder; JD & Husqvarna chain saws; power tools; hand tools, Snap On, Craftsman.

### Farm Toys - Signs - Misc

Farmall Super M pedal tractor; JD pedal tractor; JD wagon; Precision Power Shift 4020; JD 9860 STS Combine; JD 8330 tractor w/duals, Dealer Edition; JD 8020 tractor; JD 9500 Combine, corn & bean heads; Farm Progress 1999/2000 Super H and M, Special Edition, signed by Max Armstrong; JD R diesel tractor; (2) Dale Jarrett 88 race cars; **Signs:** Phillips 66 lighted; Kent Feeds; Meyer Elevators; Lavern L. Olson, Malta, IL.; Ford; Mobil; Henry Weinhard's neon; DeKalb Winged Ear; Martz-Spears  
Seeds; #99; DeKalb Winged Ear neon; Pioneer thermometer; Hintzsch Scarboro Plant; Cargill; Crows 492; 7-Hedlin's 58 Richer milk crate; Lincoln Bohling Co. Chicago box; (2) Pepsi Cola crates; Red Seal - Western Holms wood box; GE Co. box; (3) Wards Pennsylvania motor oil can; old USA gas can; Antique tools; (2) Nutting Truck Co., Fairbault, MN factory carts; factory cart; wood wagon wheel.

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02052020



# MARKETPLACE

No. 0211 (Feb. 12)

**PUBLIC NOTICE ON FLAGG TOWNSHIP ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET**

Notice is hereby given that a tentative budget and appropriation ordinance for the Flagg Township Road District in the county of Ogle, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year April 1, 2020 and ending March 31, 2021, will be on file and conveniently available for public inspection at the Flagg Township Office Building, 303 W. Highway 38 Rochelle, starting February 11, 2020, during regular office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Monday – Friday.

Notice is further given that a public hearing on said budget and appropriation ordinance will be held on Monday, March 9, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the Flagg Township Office Building Board Room, 303 W. Highway 38, Rochelle, IL, whereas final action on said ordinance will be taken by the Flagg Township Board of Trustees.

Joanna G. Patrick  
Flagg Township Clerk  
No. 0212 (Feb. 12)

## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance.

## 105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

"This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance."

## 113 FINANCIAL

NOTICE Advance Fee Loans or Credit Offers Companies that do business by phone can't ask you to pay for credit before you get it. For more information, call toll-free 1-877-FTC-HELP. A public service message from your hometown newspaper and the Federal Trade Commission.

## 119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

"This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance."

## 127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

JNJ JUMPERS Indoor/ Outdoor Bounce House Rentals Available Year Round. Please Call 815-784-4256 For Availability or Visit us on Facebook.

## 201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless licensed or holding a permit as a childcare facility, may cause to be published any advertisement soliciting a child care service. A childcare facility that is licensed or operating under a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services may publish advertisements of the services for which it is specifically licensed or issued a permit. Your Hometown Newspaper strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in its care.

## 203 HELP WANTED

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## 301 ANTIQUES

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## 301 ANTIQUES

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## 307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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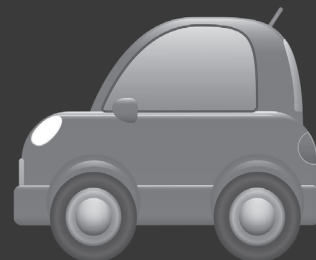
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# SPORTS

## T-Byrd Lanes



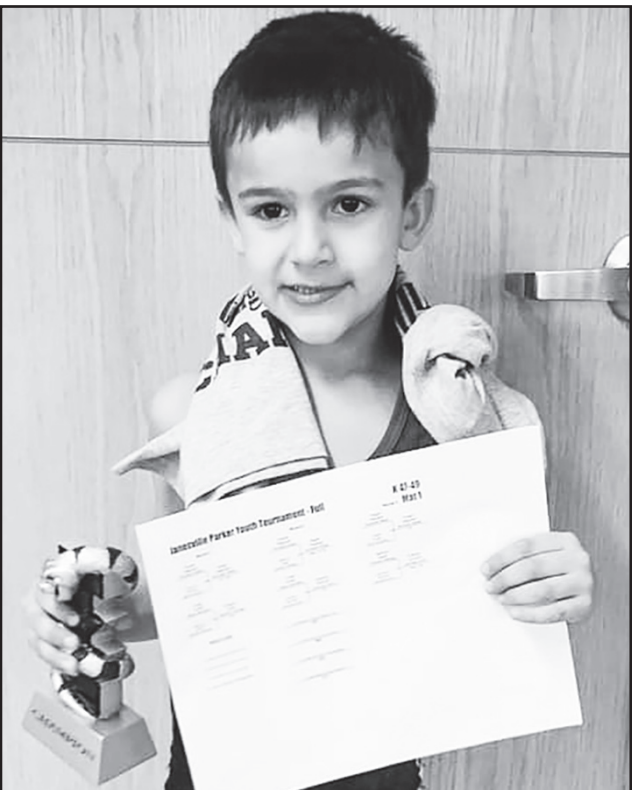
(COURTESY PHOTOS)

### Local Bumper League bowlers honored with awards

T-Byrd Lanes celebrated seven Bumper League bowlers with eight awards recently. Silas Alsop (9), Liam Virto (11), Jackson Olzsewski (11 & 13), Will Pritchett (12), Jessie Sexton (12), Blake Rollin (13) and Giuliana Henderson (14)

all earned Bowler of the Week honors for their achievements in the T-Byrds Bumper League. The players are pictured above, in order, from top left to bottom right.

## Rochelle Wrestling Club



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Rowen Villalobos shows off his first-place bracket and trophy from the Janesville Parker Youth Tournament on Sunday.

## Junior Hubs battle up north

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

JANESVILLE, Wisc. — The Rochelle Wrestling Club sent a dozen Junior Hubs to the Janesville Parker Youth Tournament on Sunday, Feb. 9. Xavier Villalobos, Roman Villalobos, Benjamin Nadig and Rowen Villalobos all took home first-place titles in the tournament.

Rowen Villalobos (3-0) went unbeaten in the Tots Division to earn a first-place title in his bracket. Emilyn Voight (3-1) led Rochelle in the Bantam Division, finishing second in her bracket while Garrett Miller (1-3) placed fourth. Zachary Johnson (3-1) took third place as the lone Intermediate Division grappler from Rochelle.

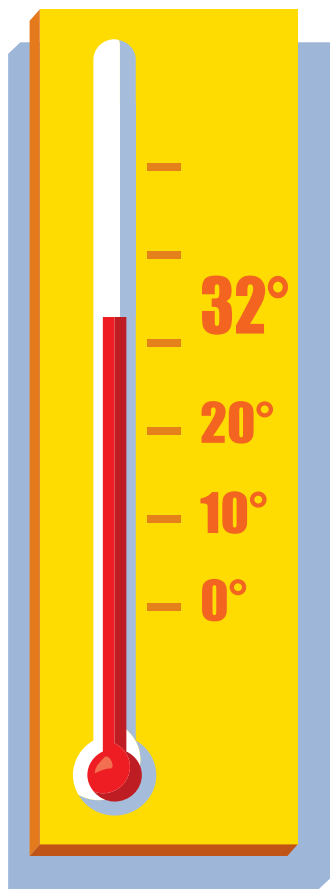
Roman Villalobos (4-0) recorded four pins and a first-place finish to lead the Junior Hubs in

the Novice Division on Sunday. Benjamin Nadig (3-1) also took first in his bracket, while Brenden Voight (2-2) finished third and Tony Milburn (1-3) placed fourth.

Xavier Villalobos (4-0) was Rochelle's top wrestler in the Senior Division, earning a first-place finish in his bracket while Grant Gensler (4-1) finished second and Adaleiah Villalobos (1-2) took third. Joseph Nadig placed sixth for the Junior Hubs.

Rochelle Wrestling Club fielded four participants in the KWA Bulldog Brawl in Kenosha, Wisconsin on Sunday, Feb. 9. Kaiden Morris (2-1) brought home a third-place finish in his bracket, while Tommy Tourdot (2-1) won back-to-back wrestlebacks for fifth place in his bracket. Aidan Lopez placed sixth and Nehemiah Andronic took eighth.

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